

## The Times-Dispatch

DAILY-WEEKLY-SUNDAY.

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Entered, January 27, 1906, at Richmond, Va.,  
as second-class matter, under act of Congress  
of March 3, 1893.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1906.

## To Christmas Shoppers.

Please buy your presents early.  
Early in the day and early in December.

That will be your biggest gift of the holidays—to the workers behind the counters and on the delivery wagons.

## The Message.

The President's message, read yesterday in both houses of Congress, contains little that is startling or especially striking in any way. It covers anew, at rather unnecessary length, most of the points already made familiar by Mr. Roosevelt's speeches and writings.

The message is, indeed, less noteworthy for what it says than for what it leaves unsaid. There is one speaking omission. We look in vain here for any word concerning the tariff. In a paper of some 2,000 words, so diffusely written that it can allot 2,500 words to the Rio Janeiro conference and a eulogy of Mr. Root, there was apparently no room for even a line on the subject of tariff reform.

What the President has said in this paper he has said, on the whole, conservatively. He is not so sure of the remedies for all the evils which he points out as perhaps he once might have felt himself. A marked exception to this tone of restraint, however, appears in his remarks dealing with the Japanese issue in San Francisco. He is troubled with no doubt, apparently, as to how we should proceed here. Prefacing his comment with somewhat superfluous hemming concerning the virtues of the Japanese, he announces that "to shut them out from the public schools is a wicked absurdity," and strongly recommends that the President of the United States be given, in this connection, extended powers for enforcing the rights of aliens under treaties. His sympathies in the present dispute are kindly with the yellow men. San Franciscans who object to having their children educated in the society of Japanese men are dismissed as simply "a small body of our citizens that act badly."

Opposites to the disappointment of Captain Richmond P. Hobson and other advocates of a colossal navy, the message specifically does not ask that we continue to enlarge this branch of the service. As a former Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Roosevelt fully subscribes to the doctrine that the battleship is the surest guarantor of peace, but he asks only that our naval complement be maintained at its present strength. This includes the replacing of "obsolete and outworn ships" by new and good ones, the equals of any adult in any navy." In both army and navy he feels the need for doing everything possible to maintain the highest standard of personnel among officers and enlisted men. Both branches of the service he considers to be in ready and efficient condition, as the recent crisis in Cuba illustrated. But the army, he feels, is in need of larger appropriations for mass drills, manœuvres and marching practice.

Mr. Roosevelt says that to bar Japanese men from the San Francisco public school is "a wicked absurdity." Possibly if circumstances compelled his little sons and daughters to attend this school, the President might not take such a purely international view of the situation.

It is not generally believed, however, that Mr. Roosevelt's conscientious critique of lynching will bring about an immediate cessation of the crime.

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so for a long while. There seems no especial reason to go to the pains of informing Congress of it. No legislation is suggested in this connection, and no remedy other than the threadbare ones—strict equality of black and white before the law, the development of a healthy public opinion among the negroes, strict regard for the law on the part of the whites, etc., etc.; technical education for the blacks is also recommended as a likely corrective.

The relations of capital and labor are discussed at some length but without especial fruitfulness. The gist of his comment upon the subject of injunctions, for example, is merely this: the injunction should not be wholly done away with, but it should not be used to unjust ends—a proposition with which all intelligent men, of whatever party, may safely agree. Judges who wield this great power must not expect or desire immunity from criticism, and the dicta of William H. Taft, when a United States circuit judge, are quoted to support this contention. Labor is warned to beware of its false friends, who "seek to excite a violent class hatred against all men of wealth" and the dangers of demagogic belief existance had just been discovered. The general introduction of an eight-hour working day, wherever practicable, is favored, as well as more restrictive laws regarding the labor of children and women, and a further extension of the employers' liability law. Arbitration is strongly recommended in the case of disputes between employers and employed.

The unsatisfactory currency situation, created by the fluctuations of interest on call money and other causes, is attacked, and Secretary Shaw comes in for a modest mention for having "stepped in and by wise action put a stop to the most violent period of oscillation." At present, he points out, all commercial interests suffer during each crop period, and the need of a change is evident.

The President does not press any especial plan, though he mentions with approval the scheme framed by Mr. Shaw, permitting national banks "to issue a specified proportion of their capital in notes of a given kind."

Doubtless to the disappointment of Captain Richmond P. Hobson and other advocates of a colossal navy, the message specifically does not ask that we continue to enlarge this branch of the service. As a former Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Roosevelt fully subscribes to the doctrine that the battleship is the surest guarantor of peace, but he asks only that our naval complement be maintained at its present strength. This includes the replacing of "obsolete and outworn ships" by new and good ones, the equals of any adult in any navy." In both army and navy he feels the need for doing everything possible to maintain the highest standard of personnel among officers and enlisted men. Both branches of the service he considers to be in ready and efficient condition, as the recent crisis in Cuba illustrated. But the army, he feels, is in need of larger appropriations for mass drills, manœuvres and marching practice.

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